

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 165775

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EEWT, ETRD, AFSP, APER, AU, XH

SUBJECT: RESTRUCTURING OF THE EAST-WEST TRADE CENTER

REF: (A) VIENNA 5741, (B) VIENNA 5303, (C) STATE 141540

FROM STATE AND COMMERCE TO THE AMBASSADOR

1. THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE APPRECIATE YOUR
THOUGHTFUL AND USEFUL RESLON E (REFTEL B) TO THE USDOC
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PROPOSALS AND COMMENTS CONVEYED IN REFTEL C C
NCERNING THE
RESTRUCTURING OF THE PRESENT EAST-WEST TRADE CENTER (EWTC)
INTO AN EAST-WEST TRADE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (EWTDO). WE

ALSO SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO SEE THAT THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES OF THE VIENNA LOCATION ARE UTILIZED TO THE FULLEST DEGREE -- WITHIN BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS -- TO PROMOTE AND INCREASE US TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME NOT INTERFERING WITH THE EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN THE AUSTRIAN MARKET.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR VIEWS ON THE STAFFING OF THE RESTRUCTURED CENTER (REFTEL B), STATE AND COMMERCE NOW AGREE TO YOUR RECOMMENDATION (PARA 10) THAT THE CENTER BE MAINTAINED AS A JOINT STATE-COMMERCE EFFORT, WITH A STATE (FSO-3) DIRECTOR (CURRENT INCUMBENT: MARTIN), A USDOC GS-14 PROJECT AND EXHIBITS OFFICER (CURRENT INCUMBENT:

VONTILLIUS), AN AUSTRIAN FSL TRADE PROFESSIONAL (CURRENT INCUMBENT:KOSEK), AND TWO AUSTRIAN FSL SECRETARIES (THE LATTER TWO EMPLOYEES WOULD ALSO FACILITATE THE PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER'S INFORMATION BULLETIN). THE DIRECTOR WOULD BE A BROAD-GAUGE ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL SPECIALIST, WITH EXPERIENCE IN EAST-WEST TRADE. STATE WOULD FUND THE POSITIONS OF THE DIRECTOR AND ONE FSL SECRETARY. COMMERCE WOULD BUDGET FOR THE REMAINING THREE POSITIONS, AS WELL AS OVERALL OPERATIONAL COSTS.

3. AS STATED IN PARA 2, REFTEL C, THE EWTDO WOULD REMAIN AS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF THE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL SECTION, UNDER THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS. WE AGREE THAT NO OTHER EAST-WEST TRADE DEMANDS SHOULD BE PLACED UPON THE EMBASSY'S ALREADY FULLY EMPLOYED COMMERCIAL STAFF.

4. ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON SHARES YOUR WELL-ARGUED VIEWS ABOUT THE SUITABILITY AND USEFULNESS OF THE CURRENT EWTC SITE, (COMMERCE REGRETFULLY CANNOT CONTINUE TO PAY FOR OPERATIONS IN THAT BUILDING. THE FY 1975 FUNDING OF THE EWTC EXCEEDED 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL USDOC/BEWT BUDGET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR OVERSEAS TRADE PROMOTION -- AND, BECAUSE OF FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON RESOURCES, THE PERCENTAGE WOULD BE EVEN HIGHER IN FY 1976. THIS DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE SHARE CANNOT BE CONTINUED IN LIGHT OF THE OTHER OVERSEAS OBLIGATIONS OF THAT BUREAU. NO OTHER BUREAU IN COMMERCE HAS THE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE EWTDO WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO BE MOVED INTO THE EMBASSY ANNEX OVER THE MEDICAL UNIT, WASHINGTON APPRECIATES THE EMBASSY'S TIMELY FEASIBILITY AND COST STUDY ON THIS OPTION (REFTEL A). COMMERCE, WHICH WILL BE FUNDING ALL MOVING AND REFURBISH-

ING EXPENSES, WILL BE REQUESTING FURTHER DETAILS FROM
THE EMBASSY.

6. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE-STATED DECISIONS, WE WOULD APPREC-
IATE THE EMBASSY'S COOPERATION IN INITIATING THE
TERMINATION OF THE PRESENT LEASE AT THE EARLIEST
OPPORTUNITY. INGERSOLL

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